

ABSTRACT

A LCD panel LP of LCD 2 is illuminated by a surface light source device of side light type 1 for backlighting. The surface light source device 1 comprises a plurality of sets each of which consists of a primary light source and a guide plate. When a fluorescent lamp 11A is turned on, illumination light LA is introduced into the guide plate 7A and then emitted from an emission face 7AO to be transferred to another guide plate 7B. A back face 7AR is provided with projection rows which prevent illumination light from being diverged toward right and left directions as viewed from an incidence end face 7A. Light transferred to the guide plate 7B is emitted from an emission face 7BO to directions inclined forward (LA1). A prism sheet 9 converts this into output illumination light LA2, which illuminates the LCD panel LP through a light diffusion sheet 10. When another fluorescent lamp 11B is turned on, illumination light LB is introduced into the guide plate 7B and then emitted from the emission face 7BO to directions inclined forward (LB1). The prism sheet 9 converts this into output illumination light LB2, which illuminates the LCD panel LP through the light diffusion sheet 10. A driving circuit 4 provides driving current control (including optional on/off control) for the fluorescent lamps 11A, 11B. Diverse directivity characteristics are realized depending on inclination angles of prismatic slopes of the prism sheet disposed along the emission face 7BO. For instance, optional output to one or both of different two directions.

(Fig. 2)